



Types of Abrasives used for Blasting Operations

Use with the Abrasive Blasting Rule, Chapter 296-818 WAC

This helpful tool outlines the types and examples of abrasives used for blasting operations.

Types of Abrasive	Examples of Abrasives	Other Information
Synthetic or natural mineral grains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Crystalline Silica – Garnet 	<p>Silica sand is the most hazardous. Limit the use of silica sand wherever possible.</p> <p>Link: For types of abrasive used in place of silica go to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA), homepage at: http://www.osha.gov/. Select 'S' for Silica.</p>
Slag abrasive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Copper slag – Nickel slag – Mixed metal slag 	May contain heavy metals.
Metallic shot or grit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Steel – Chilled cast iron 	The potential hazard is considered minimal.
Organic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ground corncobs – Ground walnut shells 	Readily combustible organic abrasives can form explosive mixtures with air.